



**June 11, 2012**

**Business Values Assessment: Sustainable Forest Management Certification**

**State of Knowledge:**

- British Columbia more third-party certified lands than any other jurisdiction, except for Canada as a whole – 54 million hectares at the end of 2011.
- Independent Independent forest certification is a voluntary process that began in the 1990s in response to concerns about logging practices and forest conversion, especially in tropical regions.
- There are three certification programs used in British Columbia – Canadian Standards Association, Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative. All ensure that harvested areas are reforested, that laws are obeyed and that there is no unauthorized or illegal logging. All go beyond this by requiring that biological diversity is conserved; wildlife habitat, soils and water resources are maintained, and timber harvesting is sustainable.

**Chain of Custody Certification:**

- Certified wood and paper products come from certified forests. An additional certification program, called chain-of-custody certification, can then provide assurance of the integrity of the fibre sourcing from the forest to the end-product.

**Market Demand for Forest Certification:**

- Forest certification and chain of custody certificates are extremely important for the pulp and paper sector. While there is no price premium associated with certified wood, it is often a condition of sale.
- Certification is not as important in markets for solid wood (lumber, plywood, etc). However, since 40% of each log used in sawmills becomes chip furnish for the pulp sector and other factors of inter-dependency, obtaining and maintaining certification is crucial for most major forest products manufacturers.

**Certification Risks:**

- Certification programs would allow salvage of beetle-killed timber as long as operations meet their standard requirements, which is currently the case in British Columbia.
- In some contexts, certification may require the salvage of beetle-impacted timber to accelerate recovery while meeting social and economic values.
- Certification standards are set by each program. If companies are unable to meet the requirements of these standards, the third-party auditors may not certify the lands.

**For More Information:**

Third-Party Forest Certification in British Columbia

[www.naturallywood.com/sites/default/files/Third-Party-Certification.pdf](http://www.naturallywood.com/sites/default/files/Third-Party-Certification.pdf)

Certification Canada (Forest Products Association of Canada)

[www.certificationcanada.org/english/](http://www.certificationcanada.org/english/)

British Columbia Certification Status (2011)

[www.certificationcanada.org/documents/status\\_reports/BC%20SFM%20Status%20Report%202011%20Yearend\\_Jan29.pdf](http://www.certificationcanada.org/documents/status_reports/BC%20SFM%20Status%20Report%202011%20Yearend_Jan29.pdf)